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Serial No. 10/029,826  
Attorney Docket No. US 010721

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated June 30, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 16 has been amended. Claims 1-17 are now pending, and claims 1, 7 and 16 are independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is objected to because the phrase "said intermediate bus" is repeated. In response, claim 7 is amended to delete the redundancy. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p) (5) for not including the reference character, e.g., Number 142, that has been described in the body of the specification. In particular, the drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because the reference character "143" has been used to designate both "PORTAL" in Fig. 1 and "internal register table entry" on pages 8, 15, and 16. In response, a replacement sheet of Fig. 1 has been submitted to reflect the change of "PORTAL 143" to --PORTAL 142--. Thus, the objection to the drawings is accordingly believed to be overcome by the replacement sheet of drawings.

As indicated in Point 23 of the Office Action, the drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.84 (p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s), e.g., 134 and 144 in Fig. 1, that are not mentioned in the description. The replacement sheet accompanying this reply to the instant amendment includes, as shown in Fig. 1, each of the portals 131, 132, 141, and 142 includes corresponding storage areas 133, 134, 143, and 144, respectively. Support for this amendment is found in Figure 1 and page 12, second to the last line to page 13,

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lines 3, and page 13, lines 14-19. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the drawing objections in view of the above correction.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13, and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et. al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,809).

It has been held that "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir.1987).

In claim 1, the Examiner asserts that "Suzuki et. al., teaches (a) implementing a register table by a **portal** that contains a plurality of entries for storing the respective **remote delay values, which are equivalent to the timeout value**, from a local bus of a **portal**. ...a bus ID of N (see Figure 1 Numbers 112 and 300 and column 5, lines 11-44)." In claim 7, the Examiner similarly asserts that "Suzuki et. al., teaches... (b) intercepting by a **portal** of said intermediate bus a **delay response message, which is equivalent to a timeout response message**, sent from an exit portal...the source bus (see column 4, line 65-column 5, line 10)." In claim 16, the Examiner additionally asserts that "Suzuki et. al., teaches...said **first portal** of the of the source bus including means for receiving a delay request, which is equivalent to a **TIMEOUT** request, from a node attached thereto (see Figure 1 and column 5, lines 58-65)."

The Examiner relies on the teaching of the delay information list 112 from Fig. 1 and excerpt from columns 4 and 5 for attempting to equate the disclosed delay time information (message), e.g., delay time, as equivalent to the claimed timeout value, timeout response message, or **TIMEOUT** request. However, the Examiner apparently fails to consider the reference Suzuki et. al., entirely. As depicted and described in Fig. 1, Fig. 15 and column 5, lines 33-44, and column 9, lines 4-21, in which the delay information list 112 includes, e.g., delay time by timer part 307, bus identifier 302, node ID 303, etc., it does not suggest or teach any equivalency to the **TIMEOUT** message or timeout value. However, the reference of Suzuki et. al., teaches (column 9, lines 4-21) that "[o]n receiving the notice, the information output means 119 refers to the contents of

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the self ID and *delay time list* and judges whether the terminal unit is a terminal unit requesting the writing of the timeout value (Fig. 15, step S180). Here, in case the terminal unit requires writing the timeout value, the forecast maximum value of the delay time to write is worked out, and its value is to be written on the timeout register 310 of the terminal unit corresponding to the self ID (Fig. 15, step S181 to S182)." The above excerpt has clearly demonstrated that the timeout value coexists at the same time along with the *delay time information*, and it is stored as a separate and distinct entity on the timeout register 310 of the terminal unit 117 (not within the bridge 101). Thus, it is clear that the Examiner has erroneously concluded the alleged respective means or step for implementing delay time information, e.g., delay time information list 112, which would have been equivalent to the claimed associated means and steps for implementing the TIMEOUT information as in claims 1, 7, and 16. Accordingly, the Applicants traverse the Examiner's assertion that both the *delay time information* and its associated means and step are equivalent to the *timeou information* and its associated claimed steps and means utilizing the timeout information.

The instant invention also includes the claimed limitation of intercepting a TIMEOUT response...by an exit portal if the timeout response message is addressed to the local bus as in claim 1, the limitation intercepted by a portal of said intermediate bus (a TIMEOUT response message sent from an exit portal of the destination bus)?...source bus as in claim 7, and the limitation of said exit portal of said destination bus including means for receiving a delay request message and for sending a delay response message having delay values included therein as in claim 16. The examiner asserts that the above limitations are met by column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 10.

It is noted that the Examiner asserts the claimed implementation of a register table by a portal that contains a plurality of entries for storing the respective remote timeout values from a local bus of a portal to a particular destination bus...bus ID of N (emphasis included) in claim 1 which is being met by Numbers 112 and 300 of Fig. 1, and column 5, lines 11-44, column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 10, and column 5 lines 58-65. The Examiner apparently relies on the visual presentation of Fig. 1 and an excerpt from column 5 for showing the delaying information list 112 and memory 300 of Suzuki et. al., would have met the plurality of entries and portal respectively.

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However, the Examiner relies on the excerpt from column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 10 to show the claimed exit portal and its function. The excerpt merely teaches that a delay measuring means 101 measures the delay time and adds a specific internal processing time. Furthermore, the delay measuring means as cited does not correspond to the interpretation of a portal, as a memory, which is relied on by the Examiner above. It is noted that claims 7 and 16 recite the similar limitation of the exit portal. Thus, it is submitted that Suzuki et. al., fails to anticipate the above claimed limitation in claims 1, 7, and 16.

The Examiner also further states that "Suzuki et. al., teaches...(f) synthesizing by the portal of a corresponding delay response message having the remote delay values for a remote transaction....where the intercepted TIMEOUT request from step (e) is addressed by one of the following: (i) retrieving the remote timeout...; or (ii) **calculating the remote timeout values retrieved from the register table if said initial requester of the TIMEOUT request message identified in step (e) is not on the local bus of the portal, wherein a max\_remote\_payload value is the smaller of max\_remote payload values in one of the following: (1) the intercepted TIMEOUT response message in step (b); and (2) the corresponding register table entry (see column 5, line 45 to column 8, line 34), and wherein remote timeout seconds, remote timeout cycles and hop count values in the intercepted TIMEOUT request message are added to the corresponding register table entry to the destination bus, respectively (see column 5, lines 33-44)**" (emphasis included), as in claim 1 and similarly claimed in claim 7 and the corresponding claim 16.

It is noted that the passage from column 5 to column 8, which only describes a timeout procedure when a controlled unit 118, is controlled from the controlled unit 117 connected to the first bus 102. The cited excerpt may describe certain delay information to be sent and transferred as a packet as demonstrated in column 7, lines, 24-54. However, the Examiner concludes that the passage does not provide any teachings or suggestions of **"calculating the remote timeout values retrieved from the register table if said initial requester of the TIMEOUT request message identified in step (e) is not on the local bus of the portal."** This simply does not

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teach a calculating element or a step for carrying out the claimed limitation. Thus, it is submitted that Suzuki et. al., fails to anticipate the claimed limitation.

Furthermore, the claimed calculating step additionally consists of the limitation **"wherein a max\_remote\_payload value is the smaller of the max\_remote payload values in one of the following: (1) the intercepted TIMEOUT response message in step (b); and (2) the corresponding register table entry."**

It is noted that the excerpt in column 7, lines 55-61 may teach a response packet that uses the virtual identifier of the control unit 117 as an address and is contained in the payload part of the write request packet 213. However, the excerpt does not teach or suggest the relative quantity and that **"a max\_remote\_payload value is the smaller of max\_remote payload values in one of the following: (1) the intercepted TIMEOUT response message in step (b); and (2) the corresponding register table entry."** Thus, it is submitted that the reference of Suzuki et. al., also additionally fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Moreover, it is noted the office action states that **"remote timeout seconds, remote timeout cycles and hop count values in the intercepted TIMEOUT request message are added to the corresponding register table entry to the destination bus, respectively"** which is met by the passage from column 5, lines 33-44 of Suzuki et. al.. However, the excerpt merely teaches that the delay information is made up of a bus identifier 302, node ID 303, virtual identifier 304, a timer part 307, and a node proper number 308. The excerpt from column 5 does not additionally teach or suggest any **"remote timeout cycles,"** and **"hop count values"** limitations as cited in the claims, and the excerpt further fails to disclose that the above, e.g., remote timeout seconds, remote timeout cycles and hop count values in the intercepted TIMEOUT request message, **are added to the corresponding register table entry.** Therefore, it is submitted that the reference of Suzuki et. al., also additionally fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

Thus, the Applicants submit that the reference Suzuki et. al., fails to anticipate the claimed limitations as cited in claim 1, 7, and 16 for at least the above reasons.

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Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e).

Since dependent claims 3-6, 8,9,11,13, and 15 depend on and further define patentably distinct claims 1, 7, and 16 correspondingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claims 2, 10, 12, 14, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et. al., in view of The Free On-Line Dictionary of Computing ("FOLDOC").

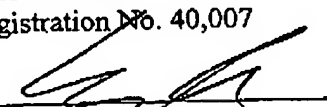
Since dependent claims 2, 10,12,14, and 17 depend on and further define patentably distinct claims 1, 7, and 16 correspondingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in the condition for allowance, and a notice to the effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain that may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to kindly telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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